

Augusta Regional Transportation Study Newsletter

Issue 25

October 2005

Whiskey/ Powderhouse Connector Road Committee

Aiken County and the City of Aiken started a committee to look into a connector road between Whiskey Road and Powderhouse Road on the busy south side of Aiken. Each council appointed three members to the committee, and three citizens and an alternative were also selected to participate. This committee will work in conjunction with Day Wilburn and Associates from Atlanta. The City of Aiken hired Day Wilburn to study a zone on the south side and to determine the best possible route for a connector road within that zone. Work by the Whiskey/ Powderhouse Connector Road Committee should be complete by the end of 2005.

LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HELPS TO ORGANIZE STATEWIDE TRANSIT SUMMIT

Planning is beginning for a statewide Transit Summit to be held next spring. The James E. Clyburn Transportation Center, the Lower Savannah RTMA, the SC Department of Transportation and the transportation and transit planners from Councils of Governments and RTMA's across South Carolina initiated what has become a broadly supported initiative – the planning and sponsorship of an event that will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders agencies and organizations from around the state with an interest in setting a new vision for transit in South Carolina!

One goal of the event will be to bridge the gap between road, highway planning and transit planning. Another will be to develop a broadly inclusive vision for transit in South Carolina, to learn new and promising practices and ideas and to develop recommendations for action.

Helping to plan and sponsor the event, in addition to the Clyburn Center, the Councils of Government and the Department of Transportation are also the Transportation Association of South Carolina, the League of Women Voters, the SC Energy Office, the Palmetto Clean Fuels Coalition, AARP, the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, the SC Association of Council on Aging Directors, the SC Human Service Providers Association, the SAGE Institute, the Office of Rural Health, the Department of Commerce, numerous public and human service providers of transportation and vendors and professional friends of transit.

A number of additional state agencies with an interest in transportation for the people they serve have been invited to join the initiative; other interested groups and stakeholders are welcome to join. For more information or to get involved call Lynda Bassham at Lower Savannah Council of Governments 803 649-7981.

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ARTS MEETINGS

ARTS committee meetings are usually held on the 8th Floor of the Municipal Building at 530 Greene Street, Augusta, GA. Please call the ARCPC (706) 821-1796 to verify time and place.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

The Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission website includes all ARTS committee agendas and related transportation planning information. The address is:

http://www.augustaga.gov/departments/planning_zoning/

Long Range Transportation Plan Adopted

On September 1, 2005 the ARTS Policy Committee adopted the 2030 ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan. The committee's action culminated a two-year effort to update the Year 2025 version of the plan. The plan development process included an assessment of transportation needs, based on both citizen input and technical analysis, and identification of policies, programs and improvement projects to address those needs. The list road improvement projects include many that were in the previous plan and some new ones. The new projects are concentrated in the suburban areas of Columbia, Richmond and Aiken Counties and along the freeways that pass through the area. The cumulative estimated cost of all the projects in the plan – road improvements, roadway operations and maintenance, bike/pedestrian, transit capital and transit operating and maintenance – is \$1.585 billion. Printed copies of the plan will be available in the near future, and it will also be posted on the ARTS website.

Take the bus!

With gas prices rising and the ride to and from work and /or school becoming more costly, the Augusta Public Transit would like to inform all city workers and college students of Paine College, Augusta State, and Augusta Tech may ride the bus by just showing a current semester/quarter student or work I.D. There is no charge for city workers and college students pay a transportation fee for unlimited rides on the transit system. All you have to do is know your destination, get on the bus, provide proper identification and sit back and relax for a comfortable safe ride to your destination. This is a luxury the Augusta Commission and Augusta Public Transit has had in effect for some time, but would like to mention this service again to the public.

Frequently Called Numbers

- GDOT Area Office – Augusta (706) 855-3466
- GDOT District Two Office – Tennille (478) 552-4601
- SC DOT - Aiken County Maintenance Shop (803) 642-7600
- Augusta Public Works and Engineering Dept. (706) 796-5040
- Augusta Traffic Engineering Division (706) 821-1841
- Columbia County Road Construction Dept. (706) 541-4011
- Columbia County Roads and Bridges Dept. (706) 541-1143
- Augusta Public Transit (706) 821-1721
- Aiken County Transit (Best Friend Express) (803) 648-6493



The ARTS Intersection Accident Analysis (IAA) reports for 2003 and 2004 are complete. The reports provide summary accident data for major intersections in Aiken, Columbia, and Richmond Counties. The information is used to plan for safety and operational improvements at the intersections.

A limited number of copies of the two reports will be printed. They also can be downloaded from the ARTS website at www.augustaga.gov/departments/planning_zoning/trans_plan.asp. Below are summary tables for the two reports.

HAZARDOUS INTERSECTION SUMMARY 2003

FACT	AIKEN	COLUMBIA	RICHMOND*
Total Number of Accidents at the Intersections in the List	216	730	2063
Number of Intersections with 10 or more Accidents	5	36	57
Intersection with the Most Accidents	I-20 @ Edgefield Road(US 25) - 64 accidents	Washington Rd. (GA 104) @ Bobby Jones Expwy (GA 232) - 69 accidents	I-520 EB Ramps @ Peach Orchard Rd. - 103 accidents
Total Number of Accidents Involving Fatalities	10	3	1
Total Number of Accidents Involving Non-Fatal Injuries	57	211	261

* An intersection with 20 or more accidents is considered a hazardous intersection.

HAZARDOUS INTERSECTION SUMMARY 2004

FACT	AIKEN	COLUMBIA*	RICHMOND*
Total Number of Accidents at the Intersections in the List	171	418	2199
Number of Intersections with 10 or more Accidents	10	13	61
Intersection with the Most Accidents	I-20 & Edgefield Rd (US 25) - 52 accidents	Washington Rd. (GA 104) @ Bobby Jones Expwy (GA 232) - 56 accidents	Gordon Hwy @ Deans Bridge Rd. - 82 accidents
Total Number of Accidents Involving Fatalities	1	0	2
Total Number of Accidents Involving Non-Fatal Injuries	42	111	309

* An intersection with 20 or more accidents is considered a hazardous intersection.

Transportation Enhancement Grant Applications

September 23, 2005 was the deadline for submission of Transportation Enhancement grant applications to the Georgia Department of Transportation for Fiscal Year 2006 and 2007 year funding. The applications submitted for projects in the Georgia portion of the ARTS area include the following:

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT BUDGET	TE FUNDS REQUESTED
Augusta Canal Trail Improvements – Phase V	Add a trail and two pedestrian bridges on the south side of the 1 st Level Canal from I-20 to Eisenhower Park	Augusta Canal Authority	\$1,484,400.00	\$1,000,000.00
Augusta Canal Improvements - Phase IV	Add a multiuse trail, pedestrian bridge, interpretive signage and landscaping along the 3 rd Level Canal between 7 th & 15 th Streets	Augusta Canal Authority	\$1,177,330.00	\$941,864.00
Evans-to-Locks Multi-use Trail – Phase III	Construct 1.85 miles of a multi-use trail along Evans-to-Locks Rd. and for countywide scenic beautification improvements	Columbia County	\$878,348.00	\$702,648.00
Harlem Streetscape Enhancements – Phase II	Install pedestrian-friendly improvements	City of Harlem	\$875,000.00	\$700,000.00
Reynolds Street Depot / Community Center – Phase I	Rehabilitate the exterior and 1/3 of the interior of a historic railroad freight depot located on the 500 block of Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. Space to be used as community center and for offices of the Downtown development Authority and Mainstreet Augusta	City of Augusta	\$1,200,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Augusta Gateways Enhancement	Install landscaping on grass medians at three gateway intersections in the city of Augusta	City of Augusta	\$44,000.00	\$35,200.00
ASU History Walk – Phase IV	Extend ASU History Walk on a route around the academic buildings and up Katherine Street to a point near the Guardhouse Museum	Augusta State University	\$818,920.00	\$655,120.00
Old Evans Road Multi-use Path and Streetscape Improvements	Install a 10'-14' wide, paved multi-use path on the east side of Old Evans road between McCormick Rd. and Washington Rd. Street trees and lighting also would be added.	Columbia County	\$716,220.00	\$572,976
Euchee Creek Greenway – Phase I	Extends an 8' wide trail from existing termini of Euchee Creek Trail to Grovetown Middle School and adds trail head adjacent to Wrightsboro Road and Euchee Creek.	City of Grovetown	\$625,000.00	\$500,000.00

Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission
525 Telfair Street
Augusta, GA 30901

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U.S. POSTAGE
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AUGUSTA, GA

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

OCTOBER 2005
NO MEETINGS
NOVEMBER 2005
CAC/TCC – Nov 9 TH 10:00 A.M. ENDORSE DRAFT UPWP
DECEMBER 2005
POLICY – DECEMBER 1ST, ENDORSE DRAFT UPWP CAC/TCC – DECEMBER 14 TH

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